aspects and an early decision is likely to be taken in this regard..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you may issue the directions that final decision should be taken in this regard at the earliest. You may ask the Minister to stand up and give an assurance to this effect that final decision will be taken before the end of this season..*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to stand-up and give an assurance. What are you going to loose? ....*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, final decision should be taken before the end of this Session i.e. 14th August...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, I fully understand the feelings of the hon. Members. But I will not commit anything at this moment unless I bring this issue to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister because something has been discussed with the hon. Speaker and hon. Prime Minister. I will consult them and then I will come back before the House.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA): Sir, last time the Government has said about the pension of freedom fighters also. This is the fiftieth year of our Independence.

[Translation]

Government should take a decision on freedom fighters' pension at the earliest. If a decision is taken before 14 August, 1997, it would assuage our feellings with which we want to give pension to the freedom fighters. So I urge upon the Government again and again that a decision must be taken before 14th August, 1997. Today is the 1st August and not many days are left before 14th August. So I request the Minister of State for Home to give an assurance in the House in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the Hon. Members through you that Hon. Prime Minister has constituted a Committee in this regard and we have a meeting on this issue after taking 'options' and 'non-options' from the freedom fighters. After consultation with the senior freedom fighters, we have recommended to double the pension being given presently to the freedom fighters and to extend some more facilities to them.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, this is all right, but a decision should be taken before 14th August.

SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR :A decision will be taken before 14th August.

[English]

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA): Hon. Minister, a number of applications for sanctioning of freedom fighters' pension are even now pending with your Ministry. Will you expedite the clearance of the same?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, it is regarding freedom fighters' pension. This is the fiftieth year of our Independence. A number of applications are still pending. What do they do about them?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR : If there is any particular case, please tell me.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): It is not a matter of any particular case. Many cases in respect of giving pension to freedom fighters are pending clearance in the Ministry of Home Affairs. You are requested to clear these cases by giving pension to all the freedom fighters at the earliest.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let the agenda items be taken up now.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGODA): Sir, I seek a clarification. The Rajya Sabha Members are continuing to get the gas connection coupons. We are not getting them. Let the Government clarify it. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (BAREILLY): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next agenda:-

Early approval for construction of 220 K.B. Bareilly, C.B. Ganj - Almora (UP) electric line, pending for approval with the Ministry of Forest and Environment, Government of India.

12.18 hrs.

(SHRI CHITTA BASU *in the Chair*)

For discussion regarding approval to provide grant of 31 crore rupees each year to Uttar Pradesh by Central Government under Central Road Fund.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

Almost in all the districts of Rajasthan particularly in Bara district of Kota division post offices are functioning in old, dilapidated and rented buildings. Discrimination and negligence is shown while allocating funds for construction of new buildings. Therefore, new departmental buildings may be constructed in all the districts of Kota division alongwith Bara district.